

VALHALLA COMMITTEE For Environmental Health

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PRESS RELEASE

Health Canada Removes Medical Drug Based on Sparse Evidence of Health Risk – Ignores World Scientific Reports of Cell Phone Dangers

On October 10, 2007 The Valhalla Committee for Environmental Health released a publication entitled “An Important Message to Those Concerned about Cell Phone Health Hazards.” This details various reports by scientists and medical doctors concerning health hazards from cell phone transmitter masts and phone usage. The committee distributed 5,000 copies in the Slocan Valley, alerting residents to cell phone dangers, especially to teenagers and children.

Richard Caniell, chairperson of the committee, urged readers not to rely on Health Canada’s assurances of cell phone safety, saying “The test standards were so narrow as to exclude the very grounds on which scientists all over the world are reporting brain cancers, leukemia and other illnesses linked to cell phones and transmitters. Despite numerous reports, such as the massive 610-page documentation released by the University of Albany (New York), Health Canada refuses to adopt a precautionary approach.”

“Contrast this,” Caniell says, “to the fact that Health Canada has ordered that the drug Prexige be removed from all shelves, forbidding its sale or use because two persons in Canada had come down with hepatitis while using it. Many medical doctors prescribing this painkiller for arthritis protested, but Health Canada maintained that, despite sparse evidence, “the health risks were too great to tolerate”. (National Post, October 5, 2007). Dr. Andreas Laupacis, head of the Advisory Committee which reports on drugs such as Prexige, stated, as to the government’s action, that it is preferable “to err on the side of caution.”

“Precisely, says Caniell, “but this does not seem to apply when it comes to the billion-dollar telecommunications industry, which seem to have shaped Health Canada’s test parameters for cell phone effects as well as its thinking. What else could explain their refusal to recognize worldwide scientific reports about cell phone health hazards?”

New Denver, a small town in the west Kootenays, continues to fight Telus, Health Canada and the CBC, which has leased the use of its radio tower to Telus for its cell phone masts. The Village Council insists that Telus locate its transmitter installation outside the Village, not in its present position in a residential area and aside the village park. The Chamber of Commerce, the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission and a majority of residents (who refused the service by petition) do not want cell phones in their community and outlying area at all.

Telus, meanwhile, refuses to withdraw, even while some villagers are canceling their Telus optional phone services in protest. The Valhalla Committee's flyer states that the community has a right to protect itself from this hazard, insisting that Health Canada recognize that cell phone transmission and phone usage is "a health risk too great to tolerate" as it has just shown, with respect to Prexige, it is capable of doing.

Download the 4 page flyer distributed by the Valhalla Committee at
(www.vws.org/flyer.html)

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